

# The CIRF

## The Cognitive Interviewing Reporting Framework

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Quest Workshop  
Washington 9-11 April 2013

# Introduction

- What is cognitive interviewing...?
- Do we actually know what actions lie behind the term “cognitive interviewing”?
- We know what we do, but what do other researchers do?
- Example: literature review on mixed mode research. Many article unusable due to lack of specific info.

→ Now we have a solution: the CIRF

# Overview

- What is the CIRF?
- Our paper; The pre-test in a nutshell.
- Comparing the CIRF to the original report.
- Strengths and limitations of CIRF.
- Questions?

# The CIRF

In special issue of *Methodology European Journal of research Methods for the Behavioural and Social Sciences*:

1. Boeije, H., and Willis, G. (2013). The Cognitive Interviewing Reporting Framework (CIRF): towards the harmonization of cognitive interviewing reports.
2. Bode, C. & Jansen, H. (2013). Examining the Personal Experience of Aging Scale with the Three Step Test Interview.
3. Vis-Visschers, R. & Meertens, V. (2013). Using the CIRF to report on a Dutch pretest of a European Health Survey Questionnaire.
4. Padilla, J.L., Benitez, I., & Castillo, M. (2013). Obtaining validity evidence by cognitive interviewing to interpret psychometric results.
5. Willis, G., & Boeije, H. (2013). Reflections on the CIRF: Efficacy, expectations, and promise for the future.

# Items of the CIRF:

## 1. Research objectives

Define the research objectives

What is the theoretical perspective for the cognitive interviewing study?

## 2. Research design

Describe the features of the overall research design

## 3. Ethics

Present evidence of thoughtfulness about research contexts and participants

## 4. Participant selection

Describe the participant selection methods used

## 5. Data collection

Provide information about the data collection methods

## 5. Data analysis

Describe methods of data-analysis in this research project

## 7. Findings

Present findings in a systematic and clear way either per item, meaningful part of the questionnaire or the entire questionnaire

## 8. Conclusions, implications, and discussion

Address the realization of the objectives

## 9. Strengths and limitations of the study

Discuss strengths and limitations of the design and employment of the study and how these can have affected the findings

## 10. Report format

Use a structured and accepted format for organizing the report

## Our article

- EHIS, Eurostat questionnaire, CAPI survey.
- A diverse group of 30 test respondents as to gender, age, education, employment status and health problems.
- Testing methods a) reviews, b) cognitive interviewing, c) behaviour observation.

# Comparing CIRF Categories with elements of the original report

	<b>CIRF Categories</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Original StatNeth Report</b>
1	Research Objectives	1	Introduction
2	Research Design	1 & 2.2	Introduction & Methods, subsection Test procedure
3	Ethics	-	Not included
4	Participant Selection	2.1	Methods, subsection Test respondents
5	Data collection	2.2	Methods, subsection Test procedure
6	Data analysis	3	Results
7	Findings and recommendations	3	Results
8	Conclusion, implications and discussion	4	Conclusions and recommendations
9	Strengths and limitations	-	Not included
10	Report format		Appendices: •(test) questionnaire •test protocol •examples of recruitment letter, consent form etc.
-	Not included		Methods, subsection Test questionnaire

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# Strengths and limitations of the CIRF

Our conclusion, after writing the CIRF paper:

The CIRF helped in defining the method “*cognitive interviewing*”.

→ what StatNeth calls a “*cognitive interview pretest*” is actually a “*pretest combining several testing methods including cognitive interviewing*”.

The CIRF is a useful checklist to achieve completeness in internal Q-lab reports on pretests with one or more testing methods.

→ a ‘minimal standard’: e.g. a report on how a pretest was conducted should at least contain a description of the CIRF items.

The CIRF-format forced us to reflect more on the scientific background of our work.

→ We found Q-lab standards and testing methods and realised that our work has a solid scientific foundation. (see also next presentation)

# Conclusion

In an international context the CIRF may enhance comparability, completeness and uniformity of research designs, terminology and reporting of pretest research at NSI's.

# Questions?